

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 ACDA-07 DHA-02 IGA-02 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03
H-01 PRS-01 /067 W
-----070210Z 087955 /66

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FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2269
INFO OSD WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1488

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SHUM, TO
SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON NEW US ARMS SALES POLICY: TOGO

REF: STATE 115244

1. IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER KODJO AT MAPUTO CONFERENCE
AND HIS SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO ZAIRE WITH PRESIDENT EYADEMA, I WAS
ABLE FINALLY TO MAKE SUBJECT BRIEFING ON JUNE 6.

2. FONMIN ACKNOWLEDGED THE THRUST OF NEW POLICY WAS USEFUL BUT
STRESSED THAT IT TOOK TWO TO TANGO AND THE FACT IS THAT SOVIET
UNION IS INTRODUCING ARMAMENTS IN AFRICA IN A DESTABILIZING MANNER.
I ACKNOWLEDGED NEW POLICY WAS DEPENDENT ON INTERNATIONAL RECI-
PROCITY AND SAID THAT POLICY IN NO WAY LESSENERED US CONCERN WITH
SECURITY ISSUES WHICH WE WOULD CONTINUE FOLLOW CLOSELY AND MAKE
APPROPRIATE REACTIONS, AS REQUIRED.

3. I NOTED THAT SPECIFICS OF THE NEW POLICY WERE SOMEWHAT ACADEMIC
FOR TOGO INASMUCH AS TOGO WAS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR US SECURITY
ASSISTANCE. I RECALLED FOR THE FONMINISTER THE DISCUSSION
(LOME 0703) IN WHICH PRESIDENT EYADEMA HAD RAISED QUESTION ABOUT
POSSIBLE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IN ORDER TO MAKE LEGAL
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SITUATION ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, I TOLD KODJO I WANTED TO BRIEF HIM
ON BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM THAT TOGO'S UNIQUE HISTORY HAD
CREATED REGARDING SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

4. I RECALLED THE FACT THAT TOGO HAD UNDERGONE THE FIRST
SUB-SAHARAN MILITARY COUP IN 1963, MORE OR LESS AT THE TIME
WHEN, AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE MADE

ELIGIBLE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE. TOGO HAD SPECIFICALLY NOT BEEN MADE ELIGIBLE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE AT THAT TIME FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REASONS--AND DURING THE PAST FOURTEEN YEARS THAT DECISION HAD NOT BEEN REVIEWED. FOR TOGO TO BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE WOULD REQUIRE A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, I SAID SUCH DETERMINATIONS WERE LEGAL DOCUMENTS IN WHICH MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC COUNTRIES HAD TO BE JUSTIFIED AS BEING IN THE DIRECT US NATIONAL INTEREST. MOREOVER, SUCH DETERMINATIONS APPEARED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER, WERE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. IN LIGHT OF THE NEW US POLICY, I NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM OF OBTAINING PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATIONS MIGHT BECOME MORE RATHER THAN LESS DIFFICULT AND THAT IT WAS ONLY FAIR THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TOGO SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS SO THAT NO MISUNDERSTANDING MIGHT ARISE.

5. KODJO SAID THAT HE WOULD STUDY PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAY 19 DECLARATION AND MAKE NOTES ON OUR CONVERSATION, PARTICULARLY THE LEGAL QUESTIONS, WHICH HE WOULD PROVIDE TO PRESIDENT EYADEMA AND VERY LIKELY THE PRESIDENT WOULD WISH TO FOLLOW UP ON THE BRIEFING BY DISCUSSING THE DETAILS OF THE NEW POLICY WITH ME. (KODJO SAID HE HAD READ PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAY 22 SPEECH AT NOTRE DAME WITH GREAT INTEREST AND HE WOULD MAKE NOTES ON THE SPEECH, PARTICULARLY ITS HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS, WHICH HE WOULD ALSO PROVIDE TO THE PRESIDENT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUTLINING THE NEW US ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.)
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